**Statement from CSA Survivors re. Huw Edwards**

CSA survivors at the Visible Project Leeds have expressed their dismay at the recent sentencing of former BBC presenter, Huw Edwards, who received a six-month suspended sentence for possessing indecent images of children. This reiterates serious concerns about how our justice system addresses child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Indecent images of children are not just harmful to view or possess; they represent real instances of abuse, leaving the survivors in a perpetual cycle of exploitation. Every time these images are accessed or shared, the survivors are violated again. This illustrates the trauma that survivors live with, knowing that their abuse is being continuously replayed for others’ consumption.

The decision to issue a suspended sentence sends a deeply troubling message. It further diminishes public trust in the justice system and sends a signal that some individuals may receive leniency due to their personal backgrounds or status. This is unacceptable. Every survivor deserves to see their abuser held fully accountable, and no one’s status or circumstances should lessen the consequences of these crimes. The safety of survivors must always come first, and the legal system should reflect this in every decision it makes.

At Leeds Involving People, through the Visible project, we work closely with adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse, and we understand how these crimes affect survivors for the rest of their lives. The Visible project is committed to improving support for adult survivors of child sexual abuse. Alongside legal accountability, it is crucial that survivors have access to care and support that understand the long-lasting impacts of abuse.

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